

**Definition of Some
Business and Management Terms
Used in The Deep Space Systems Program
Announcement Of Opportunity**

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This appendix provides definitions of some business and management terms used in this AO, which may not be familiar to the proposing community.

Work Breakdown Structure (WBS)

The work to be accomplished organized in an outline structure. The outline divides the work into smaller, more easily managed elements and provides a logical organization to the effort. Cost is divided among the elements, providing a means for tracking the performance of work in each element. The definition of what work is assigned to which element of the WBS is called a WBS dictionary.

New Obligation Authority (NOA)

This is the authority to obligate and commit funds to an effort. Usually a contract contains a clause with a funding limit. That limit is the how far the government will allow the contractor to obligate the government to pay for goods and services. NASA's annual appropriation is in terms of New Obligation Authority--that is, how much more NASA can raise the limits on contracts.

Periodically, the contractor bills the government for the goods and services, and when the bills are paid, the funding is said to have been "costed." The requested NOA is permission to spend, and a budget in NOA is several months advanced of a cost budget.

Process variability

If a process is repeated a number of times, the outputs are never exactly the same; there is always some variability. It is useful to distinguish between normal variability and special variability of a repeated process. Special variability is due to some systematic effect that can often be eliminated; the process is then said to be under control. Normal variability can be changed only if the process is changed fundamentally.

Concurrent engineering

Design methodology that brings design activities that might be separated by time (sequential designs) or space (component designs) and integrates them into a single, interactive design activity.